

REST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

Subject: Neofascist Activities:  
Agencia AGARTHIS

Report No: OSU-58

Date of Information: Jan-Feb 1953

Place Acquired: [ ]

Date Acquired: February 1953

Evaluation: B-2

Date of Report: 12 March 1953

Source: [ ]

1. The news agency AGARTHIS, previously reported as the organ of the neofascist organization "Oficina Europea de Documentacion" (OFEDO), has been under suspicion for some time by the Spanish authorities. The Direccion General de Seguridad issued a short report on this agency in 1952, in which it was stated that AGARTHIS and its personnel were not "trustworthy", and, according to a member of the Direccion General de Prensa, the Spanish feel there is a possibility that it serves as a cover for some form of Soviet activity.
2. In view of these doubts of AGARTHIS' bona fides, the Direccion General de la Prensa has informed Georges d'ANTHES Cousine, the agency's director, that authorization to operate in Spain has been refused, in spite of a personal recommendation from Nicolas FRANCO, the Caudillo's brother. The official reason for this refusal was based on the point that AGARTHIS' central office was presumably located in Tangier, and therefore was not officially accredited to a sovereign state. D'ANTHES countered with a statement that the agency was, in reality, Chilean, whereupon he was requested to submit Chilean credentials endorsed by the Spanish Embassy in Santiago. There is no indication that d'ANTHES did, in fact, obtain such credentials.
3. Spanish authorities have attempted to check up on AGARTHIS' activities outside of Spain, as a result of d'ANTHES' statement that the agency operated in Bonn as well as Tangier. A check made through Spanish officials in Bonn revealed that the agency was not known there, although it was learned that one Fritz ZEITLOW had at one time been an AGARTHIS correspondent in Hamburg, but had ceased his activities upon the intervention of the German police. Another check with the Press and Cultural sections of the Spanish High Commission in Morocco indicated that the agency was unknown in Tangier.
4. Little activity, if any, is currently being carried on by either AGARTHIS or its parent organization, OFEDO, which has apparently gone into a decline since the flurry of activity in the spring of 1952. Jean Maurice BEAUVFED, OFEDO's director, was deprived of his press carnet by Spanish authorities in May 1952, and has not been reinstated as a correspondent, although it is suspected that he continues to operate illegally. He was reportedly dropped from AGARTHIS after d'ANTHES learned that the real reason for the refusal to authorize AGARTHIS may have been police suspicion of BEAUVFED.

Classification

(3)  
FORM NO. 61-66  
FEB 1956

SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

65-7-4-65

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2001 2007